

issues

Message from the State Veterinarian

I want to take this opportunity to discuss Indiana's new rule regarding Certificates of Veterinary Inspection (CVI) that was approved in July by the members of the Board of Animal Health.

After considering the comments submitted from the public (primarily veterinarians) and evaluating policies in other states, along with much discussion, the Board voted to eliminate the CVI requirement for in-state animals at Indiana shows. Out-of-state exhibitors are still required to present a CVI when participating in an Indiana event. The Board also preserved the opportunity for exhibition managers to continue to require a CVI, if they so choose, without contradicting BOAH's rules.

Indiana's practitioners and producers have worked diligently to earn a high herd health status. Like many states, Indiana was once plagued by diseases such as pseudorabies and tuberculosis. By achieving free status from these and a number of other diseases, the opportunity to make intrastate travel and exhibition less cumbersome for Hoosiers is now possible. In fact, we saw this as an opportunity to reward producers and practitioners for years of sound and responsible animal health practices by our producers and practitioners alike.

CVIs have long served as a "paper trail" of animal movements, accessible following a disease event. With adoption of the premise identification program, and a new rule that requires Hoosier exhibition organizers to retain records of all entries, we've successfully modernized our tracing system to be more efficient and at the same time, be less burdensome on producers without compromising on safety.

I would like to remind practitioners that as veterinarians we still have a responsibility to our clients and our state to educate producers of the importance of biosecurity and animal health; particularly for those animals that might be traveling throughout the state. This is of utmost importance to continue Indiana's legacy as a leader in animal health.

With recent changes our board members have made to statewide exhibition rules, now is the ideal time to take this step forward and reap the rewards of decades of hard work.

Within the next few weeks, BOAH will be making available educational resources for veterinarians, producers, Extension, 4-H leaders and others to help exhibitors learn to recognize clinical signs in various species that indicate an animal should stay home.

We hope, along with educating exhibitors, we will provide an avenue to raise awareness about non-reportable, but still significant diseases of livestock that need to be prevented and increase biosecurity practices.

Bret D. Marsh, DVM
Indiana State Veterinarian

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BOAH Board Actions

DURING THEIR regular quarterly meeting, Board members took the following actions:

- Adopted a rule to amend the list of diseases in animals that must be reported to the Indiana State Board of Animal Health to reflect changes in BOAH programs, the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) reportable disease list, and the National Animal Health Reporting System reportable disease list.
- Adopted a rule to recognize electronic certificates of veterinary inspection (CVI) as official forms. The rule also eliminates the CVI requirement for Indiana animals attending Indiana shows beginning with next year's exhibition season. (Show operators still have the option to require a CVI to participate.)

Companion Animal/Equine

THE WEST Nile virus (WNV) season is off to a strong start in September; more than 20 horses have tested positive to date this year. All, so far, were unvaccinated.

Horse owners are encouraged to make the West Nile vaccine part of their animals' regular, annual health maintenance regimen. The vaccine is now available in combination products that can provide protection against several diseases, such as tetanus and Eastern equine encephalitis, in one dose.

Annual boosters are essential to maintaining immunity. The initial vaccination requires a series of two shots, with the second to follow within three-to-six weeks of the first. Many animals have had the original vaccination, but without the booster, have been infected with the virus in following years.

Along with vaccinations, property owners are encouraged to work to eliminate potential breeding sites for mosquitoes, including sources of standing water, like puddles, buckets, old tires, gutters and bird baths. Mosquitoes can reproduce in very small quantities of standing water in less than a week. Horse owners should pay close attention to keeping water in stock tanks fresh.

RABIES REPORTS have been steady from throughout Indiana this year. All 13 positives were bats, with at least nine human exposures. The veterinary community is often on the front line in these situations, offering guidance for handling potentially exposed pets and submitting samples for testing. Guidelines for handling these situations are available online at www.rabies.in.gov. Veterinarians, animal control agencies and health care providers can obtain a rabies treatment guide from BOAH by contacting Janet Berish at 317/227-0322 or email: jberish@boah.in.gov.

Premise Identification

SEPTEMBER 1 has come and gone and the BOAH premise ID staff continues to work hard to register premises. To date, more than 20,000 premises have been registered in Indiana representing more than 80% of the estimated sites in Indiana.

To increase awareness and registration, BOAH staff had a strong presence at the Indiana State Fair. BOAH staff were positioned in the swine and cattle barns to register premises, educate exhibitors and answer questions.

Recent comments made by USDA Secretary of Agriculture Mike Johanns have caused some confusion, as he referred to the "still voluntary" National Animal Identification System. Many Hoosiers have questioned BOAH as to whether or not the premise ID program is mandatory. Although not required by USDA, **Indiana state law requires** any location involved with the purchase, sale or exhibition of livestock to have a premise ID number. The registration rule was approved last fall in an effort to update and modernize Indiana's century-old system for tracing livestock in an animal

health emergency.

Registration costs nothing and can be completed by mail, online (www.boah.in.gov), or at USDA Farm Service Agency offices and via industry partners (including Indiana Pork Producers Association, Indiana Horse Council and Indiana Beef Cattle Association). Livestock owners with questions may call BOAH at 317/227-0328 or email: animalid@boah.in.gov

Avian

A VOLUNTARY program for the control of the H5/H7 subtypes of low-pathogenic avian influenza in commercial poultry is being established by the USDA-APHIS under the National Poultry Improvement Plan. This new program provides payment of indemnity for costs associated with the eradication of the H5/H7 subtypes of low-pathogenic avian influenza in poultry, which can mutate into highly pathogenic avian influenza. For more information about this new program contact USDA-APHIS at 317/290-3300.

FAIR-GOERS had the opportunity to better understand avian influenza and related food safety issues at this year's Indiana State Fair. BOAH's display featured avian influenza. A particular emphasis was put on the difference between pandemic influenza and avian influenza.

USDA AND the Department of Interior have announced findings of the H5 and H1 subtypes of avian influenza in wild birds in Pennsylvania and Michigan. None have proven to be the Asian strain.

These birds were not infected with an H5N1 strain, but possibly instead with two separate avian influenza viruses, one containing H5 and the other containing N1. Wild birds are known to harbor many influenza viruses, and the finding of one or more of these viruses during routine testing is not unusual. For more information about avian influenza visit www.fluinfo.in.gov.

Cattle/Ruminants

JOHNE'S PROGRAM veterinarians are reminded to submit completed and signed contracts to BOAH as soon as possible. Veterinary agreements must be approved by the State before payments can be made. The approval process, which includes state and federal tax records verification, can take up to 45 days to complete.

USDA RECENTLY announced that Texas has regained cattle tuberculosis-free status. The status was lost in 2002 after two TB-infected cattle herds were detected in Texas. For the import of cattle from Texas to Indiana: Indiana follows federal guidelines in reference to tuberculosis-infected or free states. Indiana does have special provisions for certain dairy animals; any sexually intact female six months or older must be tested for tuberculosis. For more information about Indiana's tuberculosis requirements, visit www.boah.in.gov.

AN ANNOUNCEMENT by USDA Secretary Mike Johanns, stated that Mexico will resume trade with the U.S. for some dairy heifers. Under the agreement, producers will be able to export dairy heifers to Mexico that are under 24 months of age and registered with a purebred dairy breed association or the Dairy Herd Improvement Association, a national dairy producer cooperative. For more information regarding Mexican/U.S. cattle trade visit www.aphis.usda.gov/newsroom.

Swine

BOAH RECENTLY hosted a Swine Health Advisory Committee meeting to discuss the newest information about porcine reproductive and respiratory syndrome (PRRS) and porcine circovirus-associated disease (PCAD), featuring Dr. Scott Dee, president of the American Association of Swine Veterinarians (AASV). Through his research, Dr. Dee has been instrumental in starting regional PRRS elimination efforts in Minnesota and other states.

While BOAH currently does not have any state or federal dollars to assist with testing or eradication of these economically devastating diseases, the agency is working to coordinate efforts within Indiana to share information and ideas. BOAH is also working on an action plan to help Hoosier producers join regional field trials for eradication programs, being sponsored by the National Pork Board and AASV.

Illegal movement of pigs from a Maryland farm that was under state quarantine for trichinosis/illegal

garbage feeding have animal health officials and livestock market operators on high alert. Tests of some of the swine on the farm were positive for several diseases of human health importance including trichinosis, sarcocystis and toxoplasmosis.

The approximately 102 pigs on the farm are now missing. The owner claims that they were stolen; however, Maryland Department of Agriculture has reason to believe the pigs left the property in a trailer driven by a relative of the owner.

None of the pigs had identification. Approximately 60 of the swine were large (more than 600 lbs). The herd had a wide mix of breeds including some potbelly pigs. Any information that would assist in the investigation of this case should be sent to Dr. Guy Hohenhaus, State Veterinarian, Maryland Department of Agriculture at 410/841-5810.

ASERTs

BOAH's ASERTs have been working with their local county health departments at town hall meetings. These meetings were planned to educate members of local communities about the concerns regarding avian influenza. ASERTs have attended these meetings to represent the animal health side of this discussion and to assure the public that Indiana's poultry supply is safe from the threat of infection. These meetings have been perfect opportunities for ASERT veterinarians to interact with the county health departments as well as their communities. For more information about the ASERT program or to become an ASERT member, contact Dr. Marianne Ash, Director, Biosecurity Planning at mash@boah.in.gov or 317/227-0347.

Cervids

THE EFFECTIVE date for USDA's new official regulations for the "Chronic Wasting Disease Certification Program and Interstate Movement of Farmed or Captive Deer, Elk and Moose" has been delayed until further notice. USDA has received several petitions urging the rule not take effect as scheduled. The delay will allow USDA to consider the issues raised in these petitions and determine actions to take in response.

A VIRAL disease called Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease (EHD) appears to be infecting, and often killing, wild white-tailed deer in west-central Indiana. EHD is not normally found in domestic animals, and is not transmissible to humans.

Hoosier hunters and hikers have recently been finding and reporting to the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) an unusual number of dead wild deer in Greene, Clay, Owen, Parke, Putnam, Sullivan, Vermillion, Fountain and Vigo counties.

Outdoorsmen and women have discovered as many as 30 dead deer while hiking or canoeing along stretches of streams. Initial investigations by DNR biologists point to EHD, which is transmitted by small flying insects called biting midges. DNR biologists have submitted tissue samples to the Purdue Animal Disease Diagnostic Lab for confirmation.

EHD causes severe, flu-like symptoms in the deer, including a high fever. This causes infected deer to seek open water in streams or ponds to cool off. Many of the reported dead deer were found near water. Sick deer may lose their appetite, coordination and their fear of normal dangers. Animals become dehydrated and progressively weaker, with mouth and eye tissue often showing a rosy or bluish color. A significant percentage of deer that contract EHD die within one to three days.

Indiana deer hunters are asked to observe deer they intend to take for a brief time. If the deer's posture or behavior indicates the deer may be sick, don't take it. There appears to be no risk associated with direct exposure to or consumption of an EHD infected deer. Hunters should use common sense when cleaning and preparing any deer: Never kill or eat a sick deer; use rubber gloves; be sure meat is cooked thoroughly to kill any bacteria or organisms that may be present.

EHD usually affects local deer populations until the first hard frost, which kills the biting midges that spread the disease. The last major Hoosier EHD outbreak occurred in southern Indiana in fall 1996.

For more information or to report a possibly infected deer, visit DNR's website at http://www.in.gov/dnr/fishwild/huntguide1/HATG_0607/HATG0607_53-58.pdf.

